

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-60 (Cancel)

61. (New) A system for monitoring weight loss or weight management of a patient and establishing communication to a remote office regarding parameters of the patient, the communication system transferring information from a first location to a remote office location, the system comprising:

(a) a monitoring apparatus at the first location comprising

a transducing device generating an electronic signal representative of the patient's weight;

a processor operatively coupled to the transducing device and arranged to process the electronic signals from the transducing device;

a communication device operatively coupled to the processor and to a communication network;

an output device operatively coupled to the processor arranged to present a series of questions to the patient, at least one of the questions relating to the patient's diet or exercise regimen;

an input device operatively coupled to the processor arranged to receive inputs from the patient in response to the queries; and

(b) a processing computer at the remote office location, the processing computer in communication with the monitoring apparatus, wherein the processing computer receives the electronic signal representing the patient's weight and also receives the inputs from the input device, wherein the processing computer issues an alert if it is determined that caregiver intervention is required.

62. (New) The system of claim 61, wherein the monitoring apparatus comprises: a base, the base including the transducing device;

a housing, the housing including the processor, the communication device, the input device, and the output device; and

a support member extending between the base and the housing.

63. (New) The system of claim 61, wherein the communication device is a modem.

64. (New) The system of claim 61, wherein the communication between the monitoring apparatus and processing computer occurs via an RS-232 port.

65. (New) The system of claim 61, wherein the communication between the monitoring apparatus and the processing computer occurs via the Internet.

66. (New) The system of claim 61, wherein the communication device is an infrared communication device.

67. (New) The system of claim 61, wherein the communication device is a satellite communication device.

68. (New) The system of claim 61, wherein the communication device is an Radio Frequency (RF) transceiver.

69. (New) The system of claim 68, wherein the RF transceiver has two portions, the first portion being operatively coupled to the processor and in communication with the second portion, the second portion being located remotely from the first portion and operatively coupled to the communication network.

70. (New) The system according to claim 69, wherein the second portion of the RF transceiver includes a wall mounting mechanism.

71. (New) The system of claim 61, wherein a nurse is in communication with the patient through the communication network.

72. (New) The system of claim 61, wherein the output device is a synthetic speech communication device arranged to audibly communicate information to the patient.

73. (New) The system of claim 61, wherein the output device is a visual display device.

74. (New) The system of claim 61, wherein the output device is a programmer for a pacemaker.

75. (New) The system of claim 61, wherein the processing computer determines the requirement for caregiver intervention by analyzing points associated with the inputs from the patient.

76. (New) The system of claim 61, wherein the processing computer determines the requirement for caregiver intervention by totaling points associated with the inputs from the patient and comparing the total with a threshold.

77. (New) A method for monitoring weight loss or weight management of a patient and establishing communication to a remote office regarding parameters of the patient, the method comprising:

measuring the patient's weight with a transducing device generating an electronic signal representative of the patient's weight;

processing the electronic signals representing the patient's weight with a processor operatively coupled to the transducing device;

presenting a series of questions to the patient, at least one of the questions relating to the patient's diet or exercise regimen with an output device coupled to the processor;

receiving, in response to the queries, inputs from the patient with an input device operatively coupled to the processor;

communicating the patient inputs and the electronic signals representing the patient's weight to a remote processing computer with a communication device operatively coupled to the processor and to a communication network; and

analyzing the patient inputs and the electronic signals representing the patient's weight with the remote processing computer to issue an alert if it is determined that caregiver intervention is required.

78. (New) The method of claim 77, wherein the communicating step is accomplished via a modem.

79. (New) The method of claim 77, wherein the communicating step is accomplished via an RS-232 port.

80. (New) The method of claim 77, wherein the communicating step is accomplished via the Internet.

81. (New) The method of claim 77, wherein the communicating step is accomplished via an infrared communication device.

82. (New) The method of claim 77, wherein the communicating step is accomplished via a satellite communication device.

83. (New) The method of claim 77, wherein the communicating step is accomplished via an Radio Frequency (RF) transceiver.

84. (New) The method of claim 83, wherein a first portion of the RF transceiver is operatively coupled to the processor and communicates with a second portion of the RF transceiver, and wherein the second portion is located remotely from the first portion and is operatively coupled to the communication network.

85. (New) The method of claim 77, wherein the presenting step is accomplished via a synthetic speech communication device arranged to audibly communicate information to the patient.

86. (New) The method of claim 77, wherein the presenting step is accomplished via a visual display device.

87. (New) The method of claim 77, wherein the presenting step is accomplished via a programmer for a pacemaker.

88. (New) The method of claim 77, wherein the analyzing step includes analyzing points associated with the inputs from the patient to determine whether caregiver intervention is required.

89. (New) The method of claim 88, wherein the analyzing step includes totaling points associated with the inputs from the patient and comparing the total with a threshold.